

1 **Q: Please state your name and address.**

2 A: My name is "Reid Radtke," and I live at 8 Clay Court, Chapin, SC  
3 29036

4 **Q: Do you have issues with your water and sewer service?**

5 A: My main issue is the high cost of water and sewer service. 2  
6 people live at my house – my wife and myself and 2 children  
7 are in college. We pay approximately \$130.00 per month for  
8 water and wastewater removal. The water system at Forty Love  
9 Point is a pass-through system. Before I even use any water,  
10 my base pay is already at \$72.00 per month. We don't use a  
11 lot of water; we don't have a swimming pool; we don't water our  
12 lawn.

13 Basically, we are purchasing water from the City of Columbia  
14 through the Blue Granite Company. Less than half a mile away,  
15 at the Village at Hilton, they purchase water directly from the  
16 City of Columbia and pay approximately \$40 per month. They  
17 pay a lot less than we do.

18 **Q: How do you feel about Blue Granite's proposal to impose**  
19 **automatic rate increases on its customer when the price of water**  
20 **goes up?**

21 A: I think this would be a very dangerous situation. I can see Blue  
22 Granite increasing our bills exponentially without even having to  
23 go to court. We'd have no assurance that the price of water had  
24 actually risen.

25 Every time Blue Granite wants to increase our bills, we need to  
26 have the Office of Regulatory Staff conduct an audit. Thirty days'  
27 notice would not be enough time for an audit to be done. We  
28 would not have enough time to submit comments.

29 We pay way too much for water and sewer already.

30 Plus, I'm afraid that Blue Granite would try to pass on other costs  
31 such as construction costs, or sewage treatment costs, without  
32 any hearing before the Public Service Commission.

33 **Q: How does the Forty Love neighborhood feel about Blue**  
34 **Granite?**

35 A: For a couple of years, I was president of the Forty Love  
36 Homeowners' Association. A lot of our efforts on the board  
37 were spent on tackling water and sewer issues. Some of those  
38 issues have been resolved. We have a pass-through system  
39 with adequate water pressure and water that we can drink,

40 ONLY because we complained as a neighborhood to the Public  
41 Service Commission during rate cases over several years.  
42 I don't think that the answer is fewer rate cases! Without rate  
43 cases, we would still be drinking brown well water with iron  
44 bacteria and e coli.

45 **Q: What is the solution to this problem?**

46 A: If Blue Granite wants to impose automatic rate increases based  
47 on a rise in the cost of water, the rate increases should be  
48 capped at a very low amount. That amount should be set by the  
49 Office of Regulatory Staff.  
50 Automatic rate increases should be limited to the cost of water.  
51 There should be no automatic rate increases allowed for  
52 construction contracts or wastewater removal services.

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